

November 4, 1988

TO: Wayne Hedberg

FROM: Holland Shepherd *HWS*

RE: Revegetation Test Plots at the Marblehead Mountain
Facility, U.S. Pollution Control Incorporated, M/045/024,
Tooele County, Utah

I reviewed the information available in the file concerning the revegetation test plots installed at the Marblehead Mountain site in November of 1985. Apparently the only evaluation of the plots, which I was able to find in the file, was done by Division staff in August of 1986, nine months later. The test plots were obliterated sometime after this date. Because of the lack of definitive data from the test plots, my recommendation is that they be reconstructed. This is particularly necessary because of the fact that no soil material was salvaged for much of this site, and the material to be revegetated will be the dolomite and limestone wastes.

The 1986 plot evaluation indicated, that the sections that had been fertilized and mulched were showing the most progress. Nothing but weeds turned up on the plots that had not been amended. Unfortunately, less than one year's worth of growth is not enough to verify plant community success on any of the established treatments. The plots that were showing positive growth may have died back in a few years once the effects of fertilizer and mulch had worn off. These treatments help in initial establishment, but persistence over time is the critical test.

I suggest that the operator go back to the original test plot design and establish these plots in a safe location at the site. I have attached the December 4, 1985 letter from Marblehead Lime Company, which shows the specs for the original plot design. The amendments and seed mixture would remain the same. Also the type of nitrogen fertilizer to be used should be the same as the original, which was a NH_4SO_4 type, applied at 30 lbs/acre.

jb
Attachment
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